

Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 13th January 2022

Present:	Tom Baster	Chairperson
	Alex Harrison	SOC Liaison
	Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
	Mark Davies	Technical Officials Lead
	John Hidle	Licensing Lead
	Jeroen Peters	Masters Working Group Chair
	Ian Mackenzie	Specialist Member (League Swimming)
	Grant Robins	Specialist Member (Commonwealth Games)
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Richard Blackshaw	Head of Swimming Talent
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

Apologies: Martin Lees Para Swimming Manager

Min No:

22/1

Action Log

All outstanding items were agenda items.

22/2

Correspondence

A request had been received from one county to hold their County Championships outside the prescribed window due to the cancellation of a planned weekend. This was agreed, subject to the approval of the relevant Regional Licensing Officer.

22/3

SOC Update

An updated Swim England Coaching policy is being prepared, this is cross-discipline document that has had input from the Talent and Development teams.

22/4

Strategy

It was agreed to form a working party with a view to producing a 4-year strategy in line with the Commonwealth Games cycle. TB to form, comprising group members, staff and external parties.

22/5

Development

22/5.a

CC is working with external parties on general guidance on period wear for all aquatic disciplines, which will incorporate specific Swim England guidance for competition. TB shared the documentation outlining the competition guidance and its practical implementation, to be forwarded to CC.

It was agreed that once the Swim England position has been agreed, this should be discussed with British Swimming – CC, RB and MD to progress when appropriate.

22/5.b TB advised the group of an incident that had arisen at the Swim England Winter Championships around the wearing of a two piece, FINA approved suit. MD to draft and circulation guidance for technical officials.

22/6 Competition Planning

22/6.a 2022 National Events

Summer Meet – Friday 5th to Tuesday 9th August, Sheffield
Age Group Open Water – Wednesday 10th August, venue TBC
County Team Championships – Sunday 2nd October, Sheffield
Masters Championships – Friday 28th to Sunday 30th October, Sheffield
Masters Inter-County Competition – Sunday 13th November, various venues
Winter Championships – Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th December, Sheffield

The Masters Open Water event is under review.

RB confirmed that there is no proposal to change the age groups for the Swim England Summer Meet.

22/6.b 2021 National Winter Championships

GR expressed his thanks to everyone involved in the planning and execution of the event. EB advised that the official feedback has now been received and will form part of the overall event review.

22/6.c 2022 Regional Championships

At the moment it appears that these events will be able to take place, a session to offer advice on setting qualifying time was held in November 2021 as it is apparent that a number of Regions now have new event management teams.

It was agreed that a statement be issued outlining that the expectation that events will be run in accordance with the current pathway. However, it was acknowledged that this forms part of a required wider review of the pathway document for both Regional and County level.

22/6.d 2022 British Championships

Following the publication of the qualifying times it was felt that it may be necessary to manage expectations due to the potential for an excessive number of qualifiers. It was agreed that it was an area for coaches and clubs to educate their athletes in, and that caution should be exercised in all discussions on this topic. RB to include in Regional Coaches Forums as appropriate.

22/7 Swimming

22/7.a Talent Update

A written report was circulated and RB gave an update on recent activity.

22/7.b Competition Review Working Group

A written report was circulated. The group has been formed and the first meeting is scheduled for 17th January.

22/7.c Technical Suit Review Working Group

A written report was circulated. The group has been set up and the first meeting will be held shortly. RB advised that the starting point is the intention to bring in restrictions, but that it needs to be managed correctly.

22/7.d **2023 World Championships**
The announcement that this event will be held in November was noted. It is not yet known whether this will have any implications for the domestic calendar.

22/8 Commonwealth Games

A written report was circulated and GR gave further updates on team staff recruitment process and the test event. A general invitation for the SLG to participate or spectate at the test event was issued.

CC advised that each Leadership Group may nominate one CWG Baton Carrier for the relay, which will then be submitted as a nomination from Swim England. This is in addition to the nominations that have been requested from the Regions. CC to provide the criteria and timescales for circulation, nominations to HA for CC and TB to make the final selection on behalf of the group, CC then to assist with drafting the nomination.

22/9 Para-Swimming

22/9.a A written report was circulated. ML has now returned on a phased return to work. A priority for 2022 is athlete classification.

22/9.b **Secondary Strobes**

A written report was circulated, however the Group required more time to read it before agreeing to the proposed objectives and will provide feedback in the next two weeks.

It was noted that a number of written reports were submitted close to the meeting time and confirmed that these should be available for circulation 7 days in advance of the meeting.

22/10 Open Water

Nothing to report, however consideration may need to be given to alternative methods of facilitating entry into the National event.

22/11 Masters

22/11.a **Inter-County Competition 2021**

22 counties took part in the event at 4 venues and the results have now been published.

22/11.b **Masters Working Group**

5 members have now been selected, with some very credible candidates having to be turned down. Induction packs are in the process of being sent and all members are preparing a short biography for a communications piece. Administrative support for the group has been agreed.

22/11.c **Open Water**

This will be one of the first items for the new group to consider, as the previous format is not financially sustainable.

22/11.d **British Masters Championships 2022**

There will be a 2-stage entry process - JP expressed concern that the qualifying times have been set too low although they have been discussed at the HCMWG.

22/12

Leagues

The National Arena League is taking place, albeit in various formats, and it is hoped to hold the national final in Cardiff in March.

The holding of local leagues is still limited in most areas of the country.

22/13

Officials

The most recent meeting of the Swim England Officials group was held on 6th December, and covered updates from the British Swimming SOG and a review of the criteria relating to officials at licensed meets. Whilst the reduced requirements were subsequently extended, there is a desire to return to the previous levels when possible.

22/14

Meet Licensing

22/14.a Whilst large numbers of Level 4 meets were seen in the run up to the County Championship entry period, this is already reverting to previously seen levels in those counties where entries have now closed.

22/14.b A query was raised over the current, long-standing exemption from paying a licensing levy that has been granted to BUCS. This led to a discussion of other issues, including the role of the NGB in other BUCS sports. TB to draw up a proposal for review.

22/15

Any Other Business

There were no other items.

22/16

Date of Next Meeting

The next two dates will be:

17th March 2022

26th May 2022

TB to circulate further dates in due course.